

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00701 160204Z  
ACTION EA-12

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
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AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0701

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI CH  
SUBJ: YEH CHIEN-YING ISSUES CALL FOR PRESERVATION OF MAO'S  
THEORY OF WARFARE

1. SUMMARY: A MAJOR ARTICLE BY VICE CHAIRMAN (AND OUTGOING  
DEFENSE MINISTER) YEH CHIEN-YING ARGUES AGAINST ONE-SIDED RELIANCE  
ON MODERN WEAPONS AT THE EXPENSE OF MAOIST MILITARY DOCTRINE. HE  
WRITES THAT WHILE THE SUPERPOWERS MAY TRY TO SABOTAGE CHINA'S  
MODERNIZATION BY LAUNCHING A NEW WAR, CHINA SHOULD DEAL WITH THE  
THREAT BY ADAPTING MAO'S THEORY OF "PEOPLE'S WAR" TO NEW  
CIRCUMSTANCES. THE ARTICLE APPEARS TO BE A REACTION TO EFFORTS  
BY SOME ELEMENTS IN THE MILITARY TO PUSH A MORE RAPID AND  
COMPLETE MODERNIZATION OF THE PLA. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S PEOPLE'S DAILY AND  
LIBERATION ARMY DAILY, VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING WARNS THAT  
CHINA'S MILITARY DOCTRINE MUST CONTINUE TO BE BASED ON MAO'S  
THEORY OF PEOPLE'S WAR. THE FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, WRITTEN TO  
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PAGE 02 PEKING 00701 160204Z

COMMEMORATE THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF  
THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF MILITARY SCIENCES, STATES THAT COMPLETE  
RELIANCE ON MODERN MILITARY METHODS WILL BE INEFFECTIVE AGAINST  
A MODERN ENEMY IF THE PLA IS NOT GUIDED BY THE CORRECT MILITARY  
THEORY. THE MILITARY SCIENCE CREATED BY CHAIRMAN MAO, HE DECLARES,  
IS STILL THE MOST ADVANCED IN THE WORLD, INCOMPARABLY BETTER THAN  
ANY "BOURGEOIS MILITARY SCIENCE." ALTHOUGH THE SUPERPOWERS, AND

EXPECIALLY TECHNOLOGY, THEIR LACK OF A CORRECT MILITARY THEORY IS AN INSUPERABLE HANDICAP.

3. YEH MAKES CLEAR THAT HE IS NOT A COMPLETE TRADITIONALIST. BENEFICIAL FOREIGN MILITARY EXPERIENCE SHOULD ALSO BE STUDIED, HE WRITES. CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, AND THEORY MUST KEEP PACE WITH NEW DEVELOPMENTS. CHINA CANNOT SEAL ITSELF OFF; IT MUST STUDY NEW QUESTIONS. AMONG THESE HE SINGLES OUT THE PROBLEM OF CIVILIAN AIR DEFENSE, WHICH HE TERMS A QUESTION OF "STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE."

4. NEVERTHELESS, THE EMPHASIS IS CLEARLY ON ADHERENCE TO THE TRADITION OF PEOPLE'S WAR. THE PLA'S OWN HARD-WON EXPERIENCE MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN. PENG TE-HUAI, LIN PIAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR ALL ERRED IN TRYING TO REPLACE IT WITH BOURGEOIS MILITARY THINKING.

5. YEH ADDS A NEW WRINKLE TO THE PRC'S STANDARD LINE ON THE DANGER OF A NEW WORLD WAR. THE SUPERPOWERS, HE WRITES, WILL CERTAINLY LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SABOTAGE CHINA'S PLAN TO BECOME A POWERFUL MODERN SOCIALIST COUNTRY. THE GREATEST SABOTAGE WOULD BE THE LAUNCHING OF A NEW WAR. THUS CHINA MUST BE PREPARED FOR WAR AND BUILD AN EFFECTIVE ARMY AND DEFENSE NETWORK.

6. COMMENT: THE EMPHASIS OF YEH'S ARTICLE ON TRADITIONAL  
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PAGE 03 PEKING 00701 160204Z

MAOIST MILITARY DOCTINES, TOGETHER WITH TWO NEGATIVE REFERENCES TO FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER PENG TE-HUAI, INDICATES THAT YEH'S TARGETS ARE ELEMENTS IN THE PLA, LACKING A BROAD PERSPECTIVE OF CHINA'S ECONOMIC PRIORITIES ARGUE FOR A MORE WHOLE-HEARTED RELIANCE ON MILITARY MODERNIZATION. YEH'S COUNTERARGUMENT, ALTHOUGH NOT EXPLICITLY STATED, SEEMS TO BE THAT CHINA IS BOUND TO BE THE LESS ADVANCED SIDE IN ANY FORSEEABLE FUTURE WAR, AND THAT THE PLA MUST NOT FORGET HOW TO MAKE USE OF ITS ADVANTAGES OF MORALE AND POPULAR SUPPORT, AS IT DID IN THE OLD DAYS OF THE CHINESE CIVIL WAR. THE ARTICLE MAY REPRESENT YEH'S FAREWELL AS HE RELINQUISHES HIS ROLE AS DEFENSE MINISTER.  
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